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Dated: December 19, 2005

Signature:

Roger A. Heppermann
(Roger A. Heppermann)

Docket No.: 06005/37170
(PATENT)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:
Michael D. Apel et al.

Application No.: 09/871,115

Confirmation No.: 9797

Filed: May 31, 2001

Art Unit: 2182

For: INPUT/OUTPUT DEVICE WITH
CONFIGURATION, FAULT ISOLATION AND
REDUNDANT FAULT ASSIST
FUNCTIONALLY

Examiner: T. Q. Nguyen

AMENDMENT AFTER FINAL ACTION (37 C.F.R. SECTION 1.116)

MS RCE
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS

In response to the Office Action dated August 18, 2005, finally rejecting claims 12-30, 56-71, 80 and 87-90, please amend the above-identified U.S. patent application as follows:

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 20 of this paper.